

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 070610Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: NATIONAL PANCHAYAT ELECTION RESULT

1. ELECTIONS FOR 32 NATIONAL PANCHAYAT SEATS FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM 12 OF NEPAL'S 14 ZONES WERE HELD MAY 3. AMONG PROMINENT WINNERS WERE PASHUPATI S.J. B. RANA (PLBRL, SINDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, BAGMATI ZONE) AND TWO CABINET MINISTERS WHO RESIGNED MARCH 12 TO CONTEST ELECTIONS, CHATURBHUI PRASAD SINGH (SAPTARI, SAGARMATHA) AND BHOJ RAJ GHIMIRE (MAHOTTARI, JANAKPUR). FORMER ASSISTANT MINISTER ADAN SINGH KATHAIT WENT DOWN TO DEFEAT, AS DID ONCE PROMINENT POLITICIAN AND MINISTER RAJESHWAR DEVKOTA.

2. THIRTEEN OF FORMER ENCUMBENTS WHO CHOSE TO CONTEST ELECTIONS WERE DEFEATED, WHILE NINE WERE RETURNED.

3. OTHER SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WERE AS FOLLOWS: BAGMATI ZONE: NARI BAHADUR THAPA (DHADING DISTRICT), SEWANG SONAM TAMANG (RASUWA), BHUPENDRA BAHADUR K.C. (SINDHUPALCHOK); BHERI ZONE: DAMBAR BAHADUR SHAHI (SURKHET); DHAULAGIRI; NARA BAHADUR BURHA (DOLPA), ARMIT LAL SHERCHAN (MUSTAND - UNOPPOSED); GANDAKI: NARAYAN MALLA (GORKHA), MININDRA JUNG GURUNG (MANANG), DAMBAR BAHADUR MALLA (PARBAT), AMBIKA PRASAD POUDYAL (SYANGJA); JANAKPUR: HEM
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BAHADUR MALLA (DHANUSA), NAVARAJ SUBEDI (RAMECHHAP), RAMESHWAR

PRASAD SHAH AND RAM CHARITRA ROY (BOTH SARLAHI); KARNALI: DHARMA DUTTA UPADHYAYA (JUMLA); KOSI: CHETU LAL CHAUDHARI (MORANG), DURGA MANI DEWAN (SANKHUWA SABHA), BHIM RAJ KHAPUNG (TEHRATHUM); MAHAKALI: LOKENDRA BAHADUR CHANG (BAITADI), KARNA BAHADUR BHANDARI (DANDEL DHURA); MECI: KRISHNA BAHADUR BHATTARAI (ILAM), VIJAY PRAKASH THEBE (TAPLEJUNG); NARAYANI: SAMSUL HAQUE (PARSA), GUNJESHWARI PRASAD SINGH (RAUTAHAT), HARI KUMAR SHRESTHA (CHITWAN), RAM LAL SHRESTHA (MAKWANPUR); RAPTI: LOKENDRA BAHADUR SHAH (RUKUM), NARAYAN PRASAD CHAND (ROLPA); SAGARMATHA: JAGADISH KUMAR POKHAREL (SAPTARI).

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE WERE USUAL CRITICISMS AND ALLEGATIONS OF IRREGULARITIES IN ELECTIONS, THESE WERE NOT AS INTENSE OR WIDESPREAD AS DURING LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS. PASHUPATI'S ELECTION COULD OPEN THE WAY FOR A LONG-RUMORED CABINET APPOINTMENT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS WILL OCCUR AND WHETHER TWO SUCCESSFUL FORMER MINISTERS WILL BE RETURNED TO AN EXPANDED OR RECONSTITUTED CABINET. END COMMENT.
CARGO

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